

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of February 2, 2011

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

MEMBERS (ECCAB)

Present: Marva Deskins, Esq. (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq. (Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Allan Mulligan (Parliamentarian); Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola; Sally Colgan; G. Stanley Doore; Peter Myo Khin; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda Payne; Bill Strassberger; Odessa Shannon; Benoy Thomas; Ned B. Williams; Teddy Wu

Absent: Vanessa E. Ali; Saschane M. Stephenson

STAFF (EMRSC): Joy Nurmi (Director) and Anjoo Chohda (Sr. Executive Administrative Aide), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

GUESTS: Rodney Barnes, SRO (Springbrook and Paint Branch HS); Tiffany Nelson, Liaison East County Youth Advisory Committee (YAC); YAC students; Neeta Datt (Staff, Del. Karen S. Montgomery; District 14, Montgomery County); Mark Pharaoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Michael Meller (Staff, Del. Heather R. Mizeur; District 20, Montgomery County); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Bob Sylwester (Valley Streams Estates); Steve Ammann (Resident); Kristi Tousignant (Gazette); Miti Figueredo (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Peggy Dennis (Montgomery County Civic Federation)

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Chair Marva Deskins – Welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

Bob Sylwester – shared response by The State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding MD 198 (Sandy Spring) at Dino Drive. The SHA traffic engineering staff have completed their review, and based on their findings parking is not allowed along the subject location. Also their maintenance crew will remove all faded “No Parking” signs and install new ones along MD 198 in the vicinity of US 29, “No Parking” signs will be installed between Dino Drive and Mcknew Road.

Regarding eastbound U-turn vehicles completing the turn on the shoulder, District 3 will be implementing a construction project beginning this summer that will remedy the U-turn issue. The work will consist of drainage and full depth widening of the shoulder. Sidewalk construction and ramp improvements have also been added to this project.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m.

Chair Marva Deskins –Announced presentations by Rodney Barnes (SRO -Springbrook and Paint Branch High School) and East County Youth Advisory Committee.

PRESENTATIONS

Rodney Barnes, Senior Resource Officer with Springbrook and Paint Branch High Schools

Rodney Barnes: Thanked the board for the invitation. Gave an introduction and spoke about the program. The School Resource Officer (SRO) program, formerly called the Educational Facilities Officer Program, is an outreach program sponsored by the police department in partnership with the Montgomery County Public Schools. The main role of the SRO is to teach and mentor students and function as a Police officer. There are nine officers involved in the program who serve as liaisons between the police department and the high schools for school and police related concerns and incidents. *A key component of the SRO program is to ensure the safety of students and staff on each campus by reviewing rules and regulations, performing safety presentations, and taking appropriate action to enforce the law when criminal activity has been discovered.*

The SRO's primary function is to **enhance the safety and security of the learning environment for students, staff, and the school community in the Montgomery County Public High Schools.** Their other duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: acting as a resource and assisting with emergency preparedness as well as safety awareness education to the high school population age groups; meeting regularly with MCPS Staff, students, and parents, to exchange information and discuss issues of concern within the school; serving as a point of contact to deliver MCPD programs such as crime prevention, conflict resolution and mediation, drug and alcohol awareness, violence prevention, gang awareness, and community relations and outreach; assisting with calls for service and incidents occurring within their assigned schools; assisting with traffic safety and traffic enforcement activities at their assigned schools.

Q & A session followed.

Chair Deskins– Thanked the speaker for his presentation.

Presentation by Youth Advisory Committee Members (YAC)

Joy Nurmi – The County Executive formed five regional Youth Advisory Committees. The East County YAC, the meetings began in October 2010. Tiffany Nelson serves as the liaison of the YAC committee, Kim Bobola, Nona Watson also serve on the committee.

Tiffany Nelson, Liaison, East County YAC – gave an introduction. Asked the students to introduce themselves, share their reasons for joining YAC. The youth indicated that they joined YAC to serve the community. They have conducted an East County Coats Drive and collected more than 200 coats to be distributed to the east county schools students in need.

Kim Bobola- shared her appreciation to the YAC students who are our future judges, community leaders, doctors. Thanked them for their incredible support. Asked the students to volunteer with East County Citizens Advisory Board.

David Kochanski, Esq., Vice Chair – briefed the students about the role of ECCAB.

The Board applauded the work and commitment by the YAC students and extends their invitation to attend the monthly board meetings.

Chair Deskins– Thanked the YAC committee for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[February 2, 2011 -1] Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of January 5, 2011. The motion was moved by Peter Myo Khin; seconded by Anthony Ramirez and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Pepco Hearing - County extends online survey to provide feedback on Pepco Services to February 7th.
2. Planning Board – The Planning Commission will consider the scope of work for the East County Science Center Master Plan on February 3rd.
3. OLO Report- Special ECCAB Meeting on OLO Report will be held at the Center on February 9th at 7:00 p.m.
4. Council Issues the Organization Reform Commission Report
5. AOBA Meeting- The Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) of Metropolitan Washington will host a meeting at the Silver Spring Civic Center on February 7th from 9:30 a.m.to noon (details attached below)
6. Coat Drive - The East County Youth Advisory Committee (ECYAC) coat drive was a big success! East County Regional Center is overflowing with coats that will benefit Greencastle ES students from needy families, and other East County schools.

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Welcomed new board member, Teddy Wu and asked him to introduce himself.
2. CE Budget Forum- Thanked Kim Bobola, Tom Aylward, Odessa Shannon for attending the CE forum held at the Center on Jan 20th.

Teddy Wu – Thanked the Chair and introduced himself to the board. He looks forward to serving the Board and the Community.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office:

Miti Figueredo announced:

1. Pepco issues – On February 7, executives from Pepco will testify before the Council's T&E Committee regarding the utility's reliability.
2. OLO meeting is scheduled on February 9th. 7:00 p.m. at the Eastern Regional Center.
3. Council approval- Montgomery County's Organizational Reform Commission presented its final report on February 1st to the County Council and County Executive. The Commission outlined a blueprint for restructuring some agencies and recommended changes in processes and operations that, together, could yield the County savings of at least \$30 million per year, and potentially hundreds of millions per year depending on how the recommendations are implemented. According to the resolution that created the ORC, any organizational proposal for County government in the Commission's report must take the form of a reorganization plan for the Executive to submit to the Council by Feb. 28. The Council must hold a public hearing on the plan by March 31 and vote on a plan before the FY12 operating budget is adopted.

Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:

Mara Parker announced:

1. Transportation & Environment Committee meeting with Pepco scheduled on February 7, 2011 will be held at the Council Hearing Room at 2:00 p.m. and will be televised live on County Cable Montgomery.
2. Encourage residents to send the survey to provide feedback on Pepco Services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Outreach Committee: Alfreda H. Payne, Chair

The committee is working on the gang activity meeting with the community.

Services Committee: Anthony Ramirez, Chair – no report

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair

The committee has scheduled a session on the East County Science Center.

February 17th works best for the Committee to meet.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Deskins – The East County Citizens Advisory Board Priority Letter will be presented to the County Executive by Chair Marva Deskins, and Vice Chair David Kochanski.

Minor edits and suggestions to the letter were shared by board members. A brief discussion followed.

Chair Deskins- will incorporate Peter Myo Khin and Tom Aylward's edits to the ECCAB priority letter.

NEW BUSINESS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

[February 2, 2011 -2] Chair Deskins– made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Peter Myo Khin and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for March 2, 2011.

Director's Report – February 2011

East County Science Center Master Plan at the Planning Board on February 3rd

The Planning Commission will consider the scope of work for the East County Science Center Master Plan on February 3rd. Check out the staff's proposal at:

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/ecsc/>

Special ECCAB Meeting on Feb 9th re OLO Report

The Montgomery County Council has scheduled a forum for the East County at the East County Regional Services Center at 7:30 p.m. to present the findings of Council's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) report, "Achieving a Structurally Balanced Budget in Montgomery County." Councilmember Nancy Navarro will join representatives of the County's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO), which late in 2010 issued a two-part report examining the County's structural budget challenges and offering options that could be adopted to address them.

Council Issues the Organizational Reform Commission Report

On February 1st the Council received the final report of the County's Organizational Reform Commission. The Commission, whose members were appointed by the Council and by County Executive Isiah Leggett, has worked for the past six months to form recommendations for cost savings and enhanced efficiencies in County government. The report can be accessed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=6&event_id=9&meta_id=16346

AOBA Meeting with the RSCs

On February 7th, the Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) of Metropolitan Washington will host a meeting at the Silver Spring Civic Center from 9:30 a.m. to noon, for all Montgomery County AOBA members and the County's five Regional Center Directors and six police commanders, County Executive Leggett, Sheriff Popkin, Housing Director Rick Nelson and several other agency heads. The meeting, which is modeled after the successful East County Regional Center's meeting with area apartment managers, will bring property owners and managers together with the all Regional Center Directors, district police commanders and other County agency officials to form a positive, active working alliance to address quality of life issues in apartment communities.

Youth Advisory Committee

The East County Youth Advisory Council (ECYAC) coat drive was tremendously successful. East County Regional Center is overflowing with coats that will benefit Greencastle Elementary School students from needy families, and other East County schools.

County Extends Online Survey to Provide Feedback on Pepco's Service

The deadline for the online Pepco feedback survey conducted by the Pepco Work Group appointed by County Executive Ike Leggett has been extended through Monday, February 7.

The survey is designed to obtain information on how the public views Pepco's service, the extent to which customers have experienced outages, the economic impact of those outages and some insight as to what additional costs customers would be willing to incur in exchange for improved service.

Two different surveys, one for business customers and one for residential customers, are offered. Click on the appropriate link to take the survey that applies:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PEPCOBUSINESS> and/or
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PEPCORESIDENTIAL>. If both apply, customers are asked to complete each one.

The Pepco Work Group is comprised of community leaders who were appointed to investigate the reliability of Pepco's service in Montgomery County and formulate concrete steps necessary to improve that service.

Leggett will share the Work Group's final recommendations with Pepco and the Maryland Public Service Commission (Pepco's regulatory authority).